

## **REMARKS**

This is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2007. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the claims must be renumbered. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's statements regarding the claim numbering. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that:

When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Misnumbered claims 63-116 [have] been renumbered as 66-119.

From these statements, Applicant assumes that the Examiner must have considered claims 63-65 of the Amendment filed December 12, 2006 to have been newly added claims; however, this is clearly not the case. Claims 63-65 were originally presented as newly added claims in the Amendment filed June 20, 2005, and the status identifiers for claims 63-65 were correctly indicated as "Previously Presented" in the Amendment filed December 12, 2006. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's renumbering of the claims was incorrect, and that the correct claim numbering was provided in the Amendment filed December 12, 2006. The claim numbering provided herewith is consistent with the claim numbering of the December 12, 2006 Amendment.

As the rejections raised by the Examiner were related to the Examiner's incorrect renumbering of the claims, Applicant will address the rejections set forth in the Office Action based on the original numbering of the claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 63-66, 70-73, 77-80, 85, 87-88, 92-95, 98-100, 102-103, 107-110 and 114-115 (Examiner listed renumbered claims 66-69, 73-76, 80-83, 88, 90-91, 95-98, 101-103, 105-106, 110-113 and 117-118) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tellier (US 3,788,881). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the amendments to the claims and for the reasons stated herein below.

The claims of the subject application are directed to a method that comprises providing at least one sheet of polymeric material wherein at least a portion of one surface thereof has been modified to provide a matte finish, and selling and delivering the at least one sheet of polymeric material to a customer **wherein the customer wraps (or forms) the sheet of material about a flower pot or floral grouping and secures the sheet about the flower pot or floral grouping** to provide a decorative cover therefor. In certain claims (claims 63-66, 70-71, 87-88 and 92-93), the matte finish is provided by printing with a matted ink or lacquering with a matted lacquer. In other claims (claims 72-73, 77-80, 85, 94-95, 98-100, 102-103, 107-110 and 114-115), an acrylic heat sealable lacquer is disposed on at least a portion of the sheet of material.

Tellier is related to ink receiving matte sheet materials overcoated with alkylated vinylpyrrolidone polymers. However, Tellier does not teach, disclose or even suggest providing at least one sheet of polymeric material having a matte finish on at least a portion thereof and selling and delivering the at least one sheet of polymeric material to a customer **wherein the customer wraps (or forms) the sheet of material about a flower pot or floral grouping and secures the sheet about the flower pot or floral grouping** to provide a decorative cover therefor.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 63-66, 70-73, 77-80, 85, 87-88, 92-95, 98-100, 102-103, 107-110 and 114-115 are non-obvious over Tellier. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 63-66, 70-73, 77-80, 85, 87-88, 92-95, 98-100, 102-103, 107-110 and 114-115 over Tellier.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 67-69, 74-76, 81-84, 86, 89-91, 93-95, 101, 104-106, 111-113 and 116 (Examiner listed renumbered claims 70-72, 77-79, 84-87, 89, 92-94, 96-98, 104, 107-109, 114-116 and 119) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tellier in view of Magid. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the amendments to the claims, for the reasons presented herein above in response to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of the independent claims from which such claims depend, and for the reasons stated herein below.

As stated herein above, the claims of the subject application are directed to a method that comprises providing at least one sheet of polymeric material wherein at least a portion of one surface thereof has been modified to provide a matte finish, and selling and delivering the at least one sheet of polymeric material to a customer **wherein the customer wraps (or forms) the sheet of material about a flower pot or floral grouping and secures the sheet about the flower pot or floral grouping** to provide a decorative cover therefor. In certain claims (claims 67-69 and 89-91), the matte finish is provided by printing with a matted ink or lacquering with a matted lacquer. In other claims (claims 74-76, 81-84, 86, 101, 104-106, 111-113 and 116), an acrylic heat sealable lacquer is disposed on at least a portion of the sheet of material. Also, the dependent claims included in this rejection further recite that a plurality of sheets of material are provided in the form of a roll (claims 67, 74, 81, 89, 104 and 111) or pad (claims 68, 75, 82, 90, 105 and 112) of material, or that the sheet of material comprises an expanded core polymeric film (claims 69, 76, 83, 91, 106 and 113), or that the sheet is a laminate formed using a colored adhesive (claims 86, 101 and 116).

As stated herein above, Tellier is related to ink receiving matte sheet materials overcoated with alkylated vinylpyrrolidone polymers. However, Tellier does not teach, disclose or even suggest providing at least one sheet of polymeric material having a matte finish on at least a portion thereof and

selling and delivering the at least one sheet of polymeric material to a customer **wherein the customer wraps (or forms) the sheet of material about a flower pot or floral grouping and secures the sheet about the flower pot or floral grouping** to provide a decorative cover therefor. In addition, Tellier does not teach, disclose or even suggest the further limitations of providing a plurality of sheets of material in the form of a roll or pad, or the utilization of an expanded core polymeric film, or a laminate formed using a colored adhesive.

The Examiner has recognized the deficiencies of Tellier and has attempted to supply such deficiencies with the teachings of Magid. Magid is directed to a fabric-simulating laminated sheet structure; however, the teachings of Magid do nothing to supply the deficiencies of Tellier, namely, the steps of providing at least one sheet of polymeric material having a matte finish on at least a portion thereof and selling and delivering the at least one sheet of polymeric material to a customer **wherein the customer wraps (or forms) the sheet of material about a flower pot or floral grouping and secures the sheet about the flower pot or floral grouping** to provide a decorative cover therefor.

In addition, the Examiner asserts that Magid “discloses a sheet material wherein the polymeric material can include a plurality of sheets (11, 12) formed into a roll of material (figure-1) or a pad (figures 4-6)”. While it is agreed that

Magid teaches a roll of material, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion that Figures 4-6 of Magid teach providing a plurality of sheets of polymeric material that are formed into a pad of sheets of polymeric material. It is clearly evident that Figures 4-6 of Magid illustrate a single sheet structure having multiple layers (see, for example but not by way of limitation, the Brief Descriptions of Figures 3-6, Column 3, lines 13-50; and Column 3, line 71 through Column 4, line 44).

Further, Applicant is unsure why claims 84 and 93-95 were included in this rejection instead of the first 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection. Claims 77, 78 and 73 contain similar limitations to claims 84, 93 and 95, respectively, and said former claims were included in the first 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection.

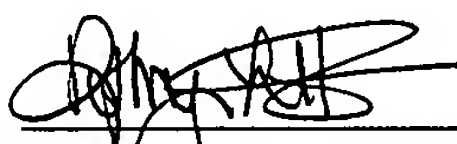
Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 67-69, 74-76, 81-84, 86, 89-91, 93-95, 101, 104-106, 111-113 and 116 are non-obvious over the combination of Tellier and Magid. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 67-69, 74-76, 81-84, 86, 89-91, 93-95, 101, 104-106, 111-113 and 116 over Tellier in view of Magid.

## **CONCLUSION**

The foregoing is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2007. Applicant respectfully submits that each and every rejection of the claims has been overcome. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 63-116, as now pending, are patentable over the art of record and are in a condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. Moreover, as the subject application has been pending for more than four years, Applicant respectfully requests that the subject application be passed to issuance expediently.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or the Remarks contained therein, Applicant's representative would welcome the opportunity to discuss the same with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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